



HEALTH

STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNANCE FOR HEALTH (HealthGov) - RTI International

HealthGov
Strengthening Local Governance for Health

GOAL

To strengthen local government unit (LGU) commitment to health and their capacity to sustainably provide, finance, and manage quality health services, particularly family planning, maternal and child health, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and other infectious diseases such as avian influenza and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)

PROJECT COMPONENTS

1. **Strengthening health management systems.** Key systems strengthen including data generation and analysis, long- and short-term planning, financial management, quality assurance and supervision, human resource management, and performance monitoring and evaluation.
2. **Expanding financing for essential health services.** Key interventions support including strengthening financing for health activities, exploring performance-based budgeting to make better use of scarce resources, helping LGUs to diversify their financial base, and encouraging them to complete market segmentation, as a basis for introducing user fees, to protect the poor.
3. **Improving service provider performance.** Support human resource management, ensure high quality service delivery, strengthen training systems for health providers, and improve the response to specific infectious diseases.
4. **Enhancing advocacy on service delivery and financing.** Develop the capacity of health professionals and civil society to advocate to local public officials for greater support to health programs.

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PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Local Government Code of 1991 devolved many government functions to local government units (LGUs) including the role of primary provider of basic health care. Decentralization has had a positive impact on the health sector but many health indicators remain below standard and the capacity of LGUs to plan, finance and deliver basic health services still needs strengthening in many areas. Emigration of health professionals also significantly impacts service quality. New and reemerging infectious diseases test an already overextended public health system. The **Strengthening Local Governance for Health Project (HealthGov)** is a comprehensive response to address these challenges. The project works within the Department of Health's national framework for health sector reform in the areas of health management, financing, service provider performance, and advocacy.

HealthGov builds local capacity to manage and finance health systems and services in over 500 LGUs in 23 provinces, spread across three major regions: Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. The project assists LGUs to develop sustainable relationships with their constituents to improve the quality and accessibility of health services and tap locally available resources. To accomplish its goals, HealthGov works with government counterparts, local stakeholders and other USAID-supported projects, and other stakeholders.



HealthGov's work with LGUs will improve the quality of health services for the ultimate beneficiary – the Filipino family

HealthGov is managed by RTI International in partnership with JHPIEGO, the Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA), the Philippines NGO Council for Population, Health, and Welfare (PNGOC), and Orient Integrated Development Consultants (OIDCI). Started in October 2006, the project will run through September 2011.